



Section II: Court Statistics



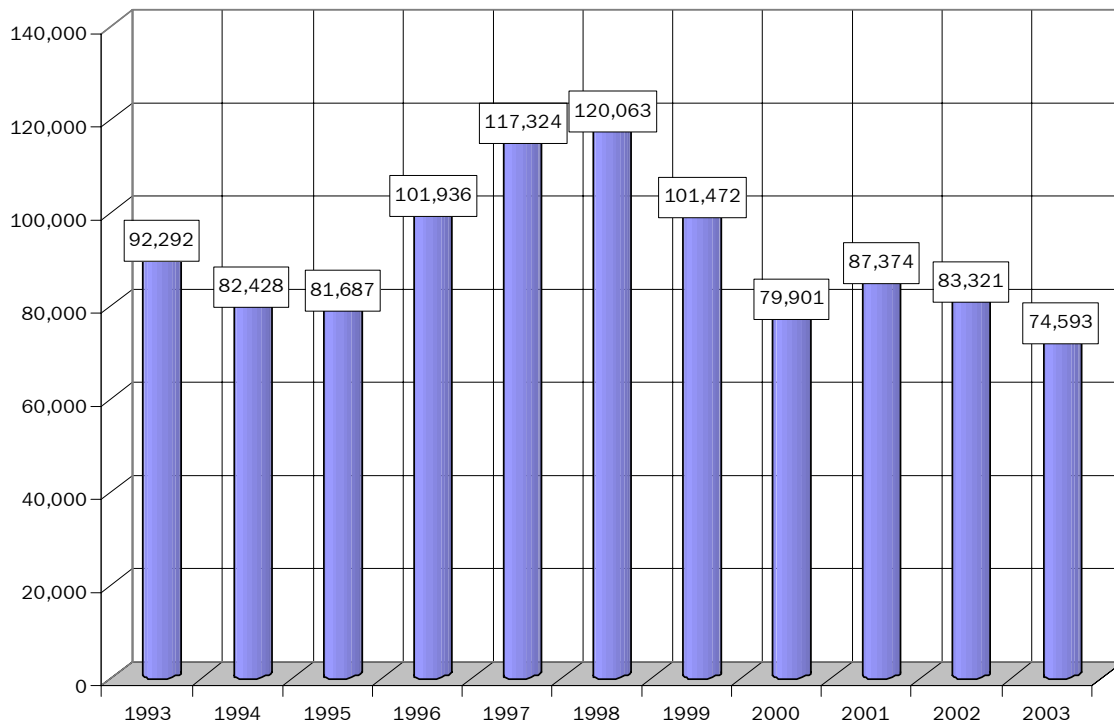
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Court Statistics

Bankruptcy Filings Decrease in 2003

For the second consecutive year, new bankruptcy case filings in the district decreased during 2003, compared to the previous year. In 2003, the Court received a total of 74,593 new bankruptcy filings, representing a 10% decrease from the 83,321 cases filed in 2002. New filings declined in all chapters, with the largest percentage decreases occurring in the number of cases filed under chapters 11 and 13 (23% and 26%, respectively). Chapter 7 filings dropped nearly 7%. Filings of adversary proceedings in the district, however, increased during the year. The Court received a total of 6,154 adversary proceedings in 2003, which is a 6.5% increase from the 5,776 filed in 2002.

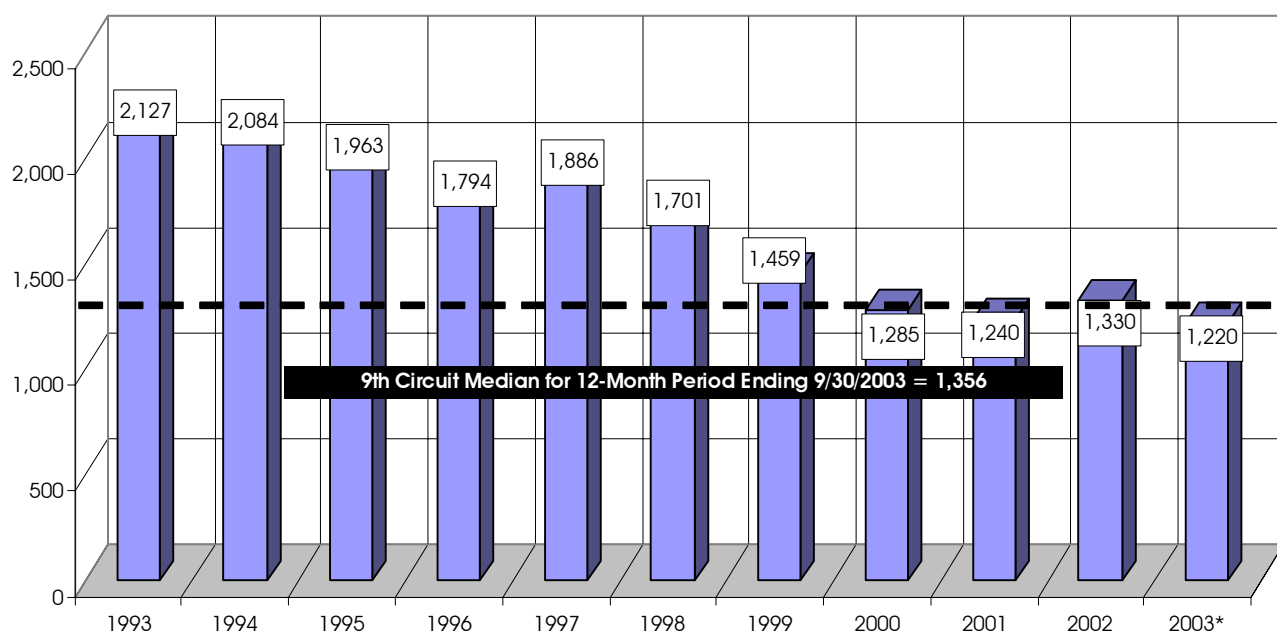
Figure 7
Central District of California
Bankruptcy Cases Filed: 1993-2003



Weighted Caseload

In March 1991, the Judicial Conference approved the bankruptcy case weights developed in the *Bankruptcy Judge Time Study* by the Federal Judicial Center. Initially established primarily for evaluating requests for additional judgeships, the weights also provide useful information about judicial workloads and facilitate judicial workload comparisons with other bankruptcy courts. For the 12 months ending December 2003, the Court projected the average weighted caseload per Central District authorized judgeship to be 1,220 caseload hours. According to statistics from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts through September 30, 2003, the national median is 1,493 caseload hours and the median for the Ninth Circuit is 1,356 caseload hours.

Figure 8
United States Bankruptcy Court - Central District of California
Annualized Weighted Caseload per Judgeship: 1993-2003



* based on internal projection

Closings of Bankruptcy Cases and Adversary Proceedings

During 2003, the Court closed 81,853 bankruptcy cases, a 4% decrease from the number of cases closed in 2002. The approximate 10% decrease in bankruptcy filings during 2003 resulted in fewer cases needing to be closed, making the 4% closing decrease an improvement in case management. The Court closed 7,260 more cases in 2003 than the 74,593 cases filed in 2003. The Court also closed 5,129 adversary proceedings during 2003, an increase of more than 6% from the number closed in 2002.

Figure 9
Central District of California
Bankruptcy Cases Closed vs. Filed: 1993-2003

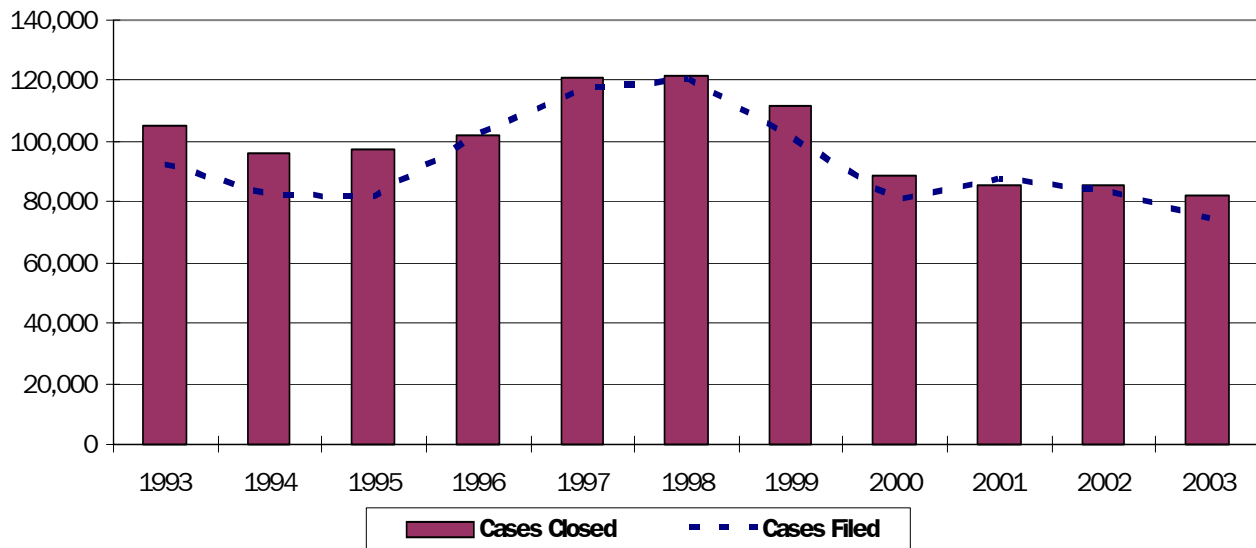
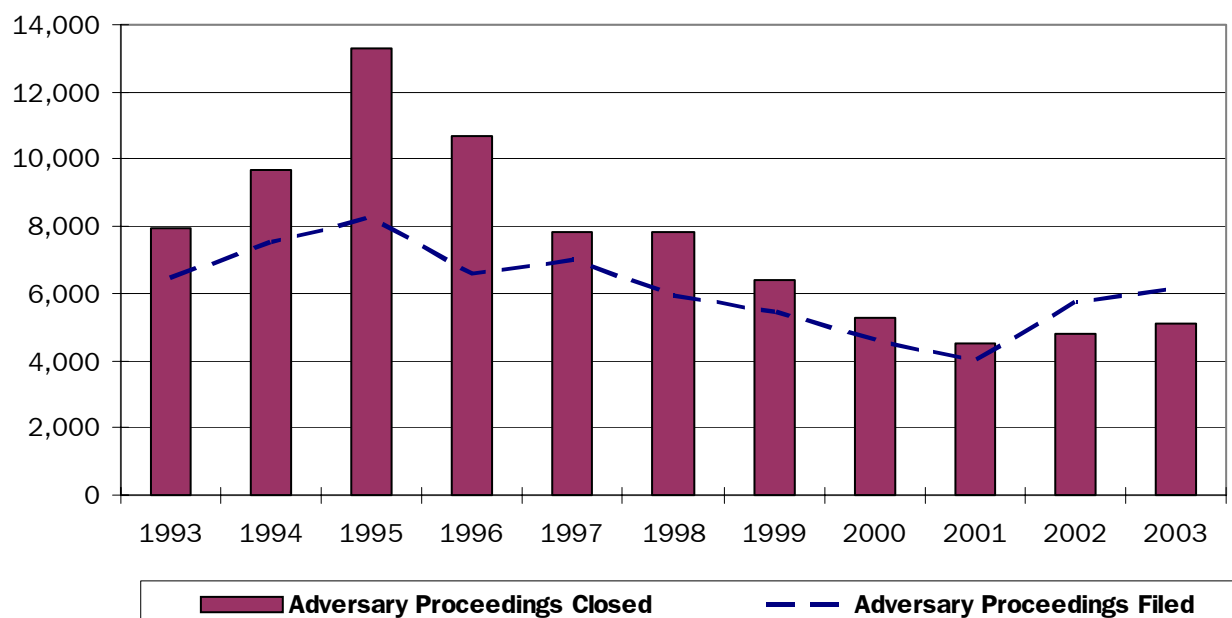


Figure 10
Central District of California
Adversary Proceedings Closed vs. Filed: 1993-2003



Number of Motions for Relief from the Automatic Stay Decreases

The Court received 14,270 Motions for Relief from the Automatic Stay during 2003, an 18% decrease from the 17,429 filed in 2002. This decrease is steeper than the decrease in bankruptcy filings, and can be attributed to the decline in the number of debtors filing multiple bankruptcy cases for the primary purpose of obtaining a stay rather than receiving an order of discharge.

Pro Se Filings Decrease Slightly

The percentage of *pro se* debtors (i.e., debtors filing without attorney representation) decreased slightly from 27% in 2002 to 26% in 2003. This is the second consecutive year in which the number of *pro se* debtors has declined. From 1994 through 2003, the percentage of chapter 7 and 13 cases filed *pro se* averaged about 32%, one of the highest rates in the country. The number of *pro se* filings is significant because it adversely impacts the judicial and Clerk's Office workloads. For instance, it takes an Intake Clerk approximately 45 minutes to process a *pro se* filing compared to about five minutes for a filing prepared by an attorney.

Table 7
Central District of California
Estimated Percentage of *Pro Se* Filings
District-Wide: 1994-2003

Year	Chapter 7	Chapter 13	Total
1994	41%	44%	42%
1995	36%	35%	36%
1996	35%	38%	36%
1997	37%	37%	37%
1998	32%	32%	32%
1999	33%	29%	31%
2000	27%	19%	24%
2001	29%	24%	28%
2002	28%	22%	27%
2003	27%	22%	26%
Average	33%	31%	32%